Abstract

A METHOD OF DETERMINING THE SYNTACTIC CORRECTNESS OF EXPRESSIONS

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The present invention is a method (100) of determining the syntactic correctness of an expression for use in a computing environment. After creating (30) a string of characters from said expression, it looks for substrings (character sequences), which are legitimate and replaces (54) them with a shorter but semantically equivalent substring. It also looks for character sequences which are illegitimate, and replaces (54) them with a substring (i.e. "?") to indicate that it has met with an illegal sequence. It does these operations repeatedly, and in predetermined sequences, till no further changes in the string can be made; that is, the string achieves a constant length. An expression is determined to be syntactically correct only if said string reduces to a single predetermined character.

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